

Thursday 21 June 2012

**NORTH WEST RAIL LINK A BOON FOR CITY OF RYDE**

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Artin Etmekdjian, has welcomed the NSW Government's announcement of a north west rail link from Rouse Hill to Chatswood.

The rail link will provide an improved commuting service for those who work in the Macquarie Park corridor, one of the most important and fastest growing employment areas in Sydney.

The new line will provide a direct connection to the Epping to Chatswood rail link, which runs through Macquarie Park, servicing both the employment area and the university.

The Mayor said: "The Council has long recognised the potential of Macquarie Park to provide the backbone of employment opportunities for the entire north western area of Sydney.

"Over the next 10 years there will be an estimated \$3 billion in commercial property investment in Macquarie Park, and by 2030 the precinct is set to become the nation's fourth largest CBD, creating many job opportunities," said Clr Etmekdjian.

"This new line will improve accessibility to this important employment area.

"The improved frequency of the trains will also provide a more convenient service, encouraging commuters to use public transport and leave the car at home.

"This will help alleviate traffic congestion in the area, making it more attractive to businesses, employees and residents," said the Mayor.

"The City of Ryde is already working in partnership with the NSW Government on the masterplan for the area.

"We look forward to continuing this productive relationship as we plan new transport interchanges in the area, particularly around Herring Road," Clr Etmekdjian said.

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Media contact: Derek McCarthy, Manager Community Relations and Events, City of Ryde  
9952 8384

**Further information**

Macquarie Park is a nationally significant research and business centre, specialising in the communications, medical research, pharmaceutical and IT&T sectors.

Its prime location in Sydney's Inner North is a major factor driving Macquarie Park's continued growth. It is located 12km by road from the Sydney CBD and 13km from Parramatta and the Epping-Chatswood Rail Link provides direct rail access to Macquarie Park.

Often described as 'Australia's Silicon Valley', Macquarie Park is the head office location for many of Australia's 'Top 100' companies.

Macquarie University is located in the Corridor as is the Macquarie Shopping Centre.